

## Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAJ-01

IO-14 DPW-01 DRC-01 /094 W  
----- 040140

R 190650Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2203

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6863

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS

SUBJ: CAIRNS ON VIETNAM

REF: CANBERRA 6845

1. WITH EXCEPTION OF FEATURE ARTICLE IN AUSTRALIAN DECEMBER 19, CAIRNS' STATEMENTS ABOUT U.S. POLICY IN VIETNAM HAVE BEEN RELEGATED TO SMALL ARTICLES BURIED IN OTHER NEWSPAPERS. CRITICISM OF CAIRNS FOR HIS STATEMENTS HAVE ALSO NOW BEEN MADE BY DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNTRY PARTY IAN SINCLAIR AND BY PRESIDENT OF RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE (RSL). MOREOVER, NEWSPAPER ATTENTION HAS BEEN DIVERTED FROM CAIRNS' REMAKRS ON U.S. POLICY TO QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL IN DUE COURSE RECOGNIZE PRG. SEVERAL COMMENTATORS SUGGEST CAIRNS HAS "DONE WHITLAM A FAVOR" BY RAISING THIS SUBJECT AND THAT CAIRNS' VIEW THAT AUSTRALIA SHOULD RECOGNIZE PRG IS SHARED BY OTHERS IN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.

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2. ARTICLE IN AUSTRALIAN AUTHORED BY JOHN EDWARDS REPORTS "EXCLUSIVE" INTERVIEW WITH CAIRNS SINCE HIS RETURN TO AUSTRALIA. IN THIS ARTICLE EDWARDS REPORTS CAIRNS TO HAVE DEVOTED TWO-THIRDS OF HIS TIME DURING PAST FIVE YEARS TO STUDY OF VIETNAM SITUATION. CAIRNS' REPORTED CONCLUSIONS ARE THAT VIETNAMESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF AGGRESSION FOR PAST CENTURY ALTHOUGH THEY WISHED TO REMAIN WITHIN THEIR OWN BORDERS AND TO SETTLE THEIR OWN DISPUTES PEACEFULLY. AGAIN FOCUS OF THIS ARTICLE IS UPON HISTORICAL ANTECEDENTS ON WHICH CAIRNS APPARENTLY BASES HIS CURRENT VIEWPOINTS.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY EXPECTS GOVERNMENT WISHES TO ALLOW WHOLE MATTER OF CAIRNS' REMARKS IN HANOI TO RECEDE INTO BACKGROUND. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN CONTINUE TO SUGGEST THAT THERE IS NO RECORD OF CAIRNS' REMARKS.  
GREEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, RECOGNITION, SPEECHES, MINISTERIAL VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** CANBERRA 6845  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by williad>; APPROVED <06-Feb-2002 by kelleyw0>  
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30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CAIRNS ON VIETNAM  
**TAGS:** PFOR, AS, VS, VN, (CAIRNS, JAMES F)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005